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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/717,502 | 11/21/2003 | Takashi Miyakawa | 117848 | 7620 |
| 25944 | 7590 | 03/17/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320 | | | | EASHOO, MARK |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | 1732 | | |

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/717,502 | MIYAKAWA ET AL. |
| | Examiner Mark Eashoo, Ph.D. | Art Unit 1732 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asami et al. (US Pat. 4,851,376) when taken with Reed (US Pat. 4,486,934) and Anderson et al. (US Pat. 5,552,351).

Asami et al. teaches the claimed process of forming a honeycomb body, comprising: mixing raw materials and reclaimed materials for forming a honeycomb body (2:48-65 and examples); dried reclaimed unfired /green material crushed into pieces of about 50 mm and less by using fine milling (3:40-65 and 8:10-60); and wherein the reclaimed material is substantially the same as the raw material (2:48-65).

Reed and Anderson et al. are cited as evidence showing that the reclaimed unfired and dried material of Asami et al. is equivalent to material of a green body. Specifically, Reed teaches that the term “green body” is known as a unfired precursor in the production of cordierite (1:10-42). Similarly, Anderson et al. teaches that a dried “green body” is still considered a “green body” until it is fired (4:47-61). As such, it is submitted that Asami et al. anticipates instant claims 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 3-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asami et al. (US Pat. 4,851,376) when taken with Reed (US Pat. 4,486,934) and Anderson et al. (US Pat. 5,552,351)..

Asami et al. teaches the basic claimed process of forming a honeycomb body, comprising: mixing raw materials and reclaimed materials for forming a honeycomb body (2:48-65 and examples); dried reclaimed unfired /green material crushed into pieces of about 50 mm and less by using fine milling (3:40-65 and 8:10-60); and wherein the reclaimed material is substantially the same as the raw material (2:48-65).

Reed and Anderson et al. are cited as evidence showing that the reclaimed unfired and dried material of Asami et al. is equivalent to material of a green body. Specifically, Reed teaches that the term “green body” is known as a unfired precursor in the production of cordierite (1:10-42). Similarly, Anderson et al. teaches that a dried “green body” is still considered a “green body” until it is fired (4:47-61). As such, it is submitted that Asami et al. anticipates instant claims 1 and 2.

Asami et al. does not teach a specific mixture of reclaimed material to raw materials. Asami et al. does teach that an extruded honeycomb body may be formed by a mixture of reclaimed material to raw materials or wholly of reclaimed materials (2:48-65). Official notice is given that optimizing the relative ratios of reclaimed material to raw materials is well known in the molding art. At the time of invention a person of ordinary skill in the art would have

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found it obvious to have optimized the relative ratios of reclaimed material to raw materials through routine experimentation, as commonly practiced in the art, in the process of Asami et al., and would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an economical and stable product.

Asami et al. does not teach a using a specific order of mixing the reclaimed material to raw materials. Official notice is given that mixing the reclaimed material into to raw materials in a continuous process is well known in the molding art. At the time of invention a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have mixed the reclaimed material into to raw materials in a continuous process, as commonly practiced in the art, in the process of Asami et al., and would have been motivated to do so in order to reuse reclaimed materials without disrupting the normal processing of raw materials.

Asami et al. does not teach a using a specific type of extruder. Official notice is given that use of either a single screw or twin screw extruder is well known in the ceramic molding art. At the time of invention a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have use of either a single screw or twin screw extruder, as commonly practiced in the art, in the process of Asami et al., and would have been motivated to do so in order to sufficient mixing to provide a stable product.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 03-JAN-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments that Asami et al. does not teach a "green body" have been substantially responded to in the above rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Eashoo, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1197. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-3pm EST, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

March 8, 2006
me

